

REVIEWS

A DIAGNOSTIC APPROACH TO CHEST DISEASES: Differential diagnoses based on roentgenographic patterns. By G. A. Lillington and R. W. Jamplis. (Illustrated, 116s.). Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins Company; and Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1965.

THIS is an interesting book and I commend it especially to the postgraduate student who would like to revise his knowledge of chest disease by reading a rather unconventional book. The authors present a series of discussions of the differential diagnosis of commonly seen radiological patterns; what may be the cause of a solitary circumscribed pulmonary nodule, of intrathoracic calcification, of bilateral hilar enlargement, of pleural effusion etc., etc.?

It is an American book and it is biased by American experience, and coccidioidomycosis, blastomycosis and histoplasmosis are more commonly considered in the differential diagnosis than would be appropriate in Ulster—but it is very stimulating. It is a book to read rather than to buy. O.L.W.

BIOCHEMISTRY. By S. P. Datta, B.Sc., M.B., B.S., and J. H. Ottaway, B.Sc., Ph.D., A.R.I.C. (Pp. vi+379, 21s.). London: Concise Medical Textbooks, Baillière, Tindall & Cassell, 1965.

THE AUTHORS have written this book as a successor to their popular "Aids to Biochemistry" which ran to six editions. The text is based on a course of lectures to medical students, but the subject matter goes beyond the requirements of the usual medical course and is in fact, a comprehensive survey of general biochemistry.

The format is similar to that of standard biochemical text-books and in spite of the compact nature of the book, structural formulae, chemical equations and diagrams of metabolic pathways are clearly presented. Unusual in a book of this type is the inclusion of an excellent account of preparative and analytical techniques.

The omission of certain clinically important substances is unexpected in a book primarily designed for medical students. No reference is made to the haem pigments, sulphaemoglobin and methaemalbumin, the term protein-mound-iodine is not mentioned and while urinary 17-ketosteroids and 17-ketogenic steroids are described in the text, these well known group names are not included in the index. It would have been preferable to treat steroids and hormones in a single chapter instead of combining steroids with the chemistry of lipids and describing hormones in a chapter on control mechanisms.

In spite of these minor deficiencies this is a compact and valuable reference book on biochemistry for students of medicine who are interested in this field. S.G.W.

EXPERIMENTAL PHYSIOLOGY. 7th Edition. By B. L. Andrew. (Pp. 244 & vii; Illustrated, 37s. 6d.). Edinburgh & London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1965.

THIS is a manual for use in physiology practical classes. It makes rather dull reading. In the foreword, Professor Bell says that the idea was originally conceived to meet domestic requirements at the University of Glasgow and to avoid the "dreary drudgery of preparing stencilled sheets". With the better secretarial help now-a-days and the great advances in duplicating and photocopying processes this drudgery is not now necessary. It is probably better to tailor practical courses to the resources and aptitudes of individual departments. A published manual imposes a rigidity on the practical course which may not be desirable.

However the book may be useful in departments where there is insufficient time to design a practical course. The book itself should be very useful to teachers of physiology in that it describes well tried class experiments in a clear and simple step by step fashion. This information is not readily gained from other sources. I.C.R.